

REMARKS

Objection to the Specification

The title is objected to as not being descriptive. The title is amended to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Objection to the Drawings

The Drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in claims 5 and 6. Claims 5 and 6 are each amended to cancel the subject matter that the office action asserts is not found in the drawings.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-5, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hueting et al. (WO/01/69684 A2).

Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the second terminal region remote from the opening includes a connecting region that extends up as far as a surface containing the opening or being electrically conductively connected to an electrically conductive connection leading to the surface. Claim 1 is further amended to include a second depression between the first terminal region and the connecting region. Claims 2-4, 8, and 10 are amended for the purpose of consistency with the language of claim 1.

Huetting does not disclose a second depression between the first terminal region and a connecting region that is part of and extends up from the second terminal region. Huetting thus does not disclose all the features of claims 1-5, 8, and 10. The Applicant accordingly requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 6, 9, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huetting et al. (WO/01/69684 A2), and further in view of Degawa et al. (EP 0872895).

Claims 6, 9, and 20 each ultimately depend from claim 1. As noted above, Huetting does not disclose all the features of claim 1, as amended. Degawa does not

cure this deficiency. Degawa is relied to disclose a depression between the field-effect transistor and an adjacent electronic component that has a larger depth than the depression for the control region, as well as a channel region lying only on one side of the trench. The combination of Huetting and Degawa does not disclose all the features of claim 1, or the claims that depend from claim 1, including claims 6, 9, and 20. Claims 9 and 20 are amended to be consistent with the language of claim 1, as amended. In addition, certain subject matter cancelled from claim 20 is re-added as new dependent claim 23.

The Applicant also notes that Degawa was relied on to disclose the features of claim 20.

For the reasons discussed above, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 9, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

New Claims

Applicant adds new claims 23-28. Support for the subject matter of claim 23 may be found in original claim 20. New claim 24 shows that the first depression comprises a width of approximately 150 nm. Support for claim 24 may be found in the specification as filed at least at page 10, lines 26-27. New claim 25 shows that the first and second depressions have the same width. Support for claim 25 may be found in the specification at least at page 10, lines 26-27, as well as in Figure 1C. New claim 26 shows that the first depression comprises a depth of approximately 1 μ m. Support for claim 26 may be found in the specification at least at page 10, lines 26-28. New claim 27 shows that the bottom of the first terminal region faces the top of the second terminal region and that there is a distance of approximately 1 μ m between the top of the first terminal region and the center of the second terminal region. Support for claim 27 may be found in the specification at least at page 9, lines 25-28. New claim 28 shows that the first depression extends from the opening to approximately half-way through the second terminal region. Support for claim 28 may be found in the specification at least at page 10, lines 31-34, as well as in Figure 1J.

None of the cited references, either alone or in combination, disclose the features of any of claims 23-28.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant amends claims 1-6, 8-10, and 20 and adds new claim 23-28. No new matter is added through this amendment. The Applicant also amends the title of the applicant. The Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued in the present case.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

/Rickard K. DeMille, Reg. No. 58,471/
Rickard K. DeMille
Registration No. 58,471
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200